THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) to (d) Complaints are looked into as and when received, and wherever necessary, action taken as per rules.

Control of AIDS, Narco-Trafficking and Drug Addiction in the North-Eastern States

1130. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state the measures taken/proposed by Government to strengthen the institutional arrangements and programmes in some of the North-Eastern States for control of AIDS, Narco-trafficking and drug addiction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): A comprehensive scheme for the prevention of control of HIV/AIDS is being implemented throughout the country, including all the North-Eastern States since 23rd Sept., 1992. Under this scheme, State AIDS cells have been established in these States. In addition, 8 Surveillance Centres, 10 Sentinel Sites, 11 Zonal Blood Testing Centres, 36 Sexually Transmitted Diseases Clinics, 13 major Blood Banks, 1 Reference Centre and 30 district level Blood Banks have been set up in the North-Eastern States.

A total of 20 Drug-deaddiction centres in North-Eastern states have been provided central assistance for infrastructural development in terms of construction grant, equipment, vehicles, training of doctors and para-medical staff in Medical colleges and District level Hospitals.

Instructions have been issued by Ministry of Finance (Deptt. of Revenue), Narcotics Control Bureau to all the enforcement agencies to maintain the utmost vigil and step of enforcement efforts under the stringent provisions contained in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Training is being imparted to officers to improve their effectiveness. Vehicles and communication equipments have been provided. Border Security Force who is developed on land borders has been vested with powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs on the border in addition to the several Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act. Reward scheme for informers and enforcement officers is being implemented. Quarterly co-ordination meetings chaired by Director General, Narcotics Control Bureau are held regularly in New Delhi which are attended by all Enforcement agencies involved in drug law enforcement at the highest level. A regional unit of Narcotics Control Bureau was set up in Imphal. Under the North Eastern Council, Nodal Officers have been designated by the State Governments to coordinate enforcement efforts in these states. A comprehensive bilateral agreement has been entered into by the Government of India with the Government of the Union of Myanmar for reducing demand and preventing illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs. The Government of India has provided two drug sniffer dogs and also trained dog-handlers of Myanmar.

Implementation of the Recommendations of the Draft National Population Policy

1131. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce urgent steps to ensure that the population problem is tackled on a priority basis;

(b) if so, by when the recommendations of the draft National Population Policy are likely to be implemented;

(c) Whether Government are aware that any futher delay in implementing the above recommendations is going to negate the entire growth and development process; and

(d) if so, the reasons for the delay in implementing the New National Population Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) (a) to (d) The draft Statement on National Population Policy alongwith draft Note for the Cabinet has been circulated among